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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

(MEDICAL DEPARTMENT)



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1944

4, Barnfield Crescent,
EXETER.

December, 1945.

To the Chairman, Aldermen and
Members of the Devon County Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS,
LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I I have the honour to present my sixteenth Annual Report
upon the Public Health of the County of Devon.

The vital statistics for the whole of the war period
will, in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health,
be dealt with in a combined report after the war. The following
statistics which have been prepared for 1944 are again very sat-
isfactory.

	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>
Birth Rate	16.4	14.2	13.6
Death Rate (All causes)	14.5	14.4	13.3
Maternal Death Rate	2.4	1.8	3.0
Infantile Mortality	38.8	39.7	38.4
Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.47	0.50	0.56
Cancer	2.1	2.2	1.9

I again take this opportunity of expressing my apprec-
iation of the loyal co-operation and work of all members of my
staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. MEREDITH DAVIES,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

STAFF OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

There have been no changes in the permanent medical staff during the previous four years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifications and deaths from the more common infectious diseases, compared with those for the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation campaigns have been actively pursued by many of the local authorities.

	SCARLET FEVER		DIPHTHERIA		ENTERIC FEVER		* PNEUMONIA		CEREBRO- SPINAL FEVER		ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS & POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS	
	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS
1944	557	3	108	3	29	2	274	223	28	6	23	2
1943	466	2	132	4	25	1	267	233	13	4	1	1
1942	401	1	333	20	47	3	239	223	25	4	5	1
1941	836	4	611	41	58	2	391	317	64	18	10	1
1940	863	4	559	41	69	3	317	358	85	15	6	2

* DEATHS INCLUDE NON-NOTIFIABLE FORMS OF PNEUMONIA.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of primary notifications during the year was 552, compared with 602 in 1943. The number of cases admitted to Residential Treatment was 424 compared with 456 admitted in 1943. There were 271 patients in residence on the 1st January 1944 and 259 residence on the 31st December 1944.

During the year 62 patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were treated at various institutions not belonging to the County Council.

Grants of extra nourishment, etc. were made as follows:-

- (1) Extra nourishment - 446 grants at 4/- per week,
- (2) Dentistry - 4 grants,
- (3) Surgical appliances, in addition to appliances recommended and supplied by the Devonian Association for Cripples Aid - 2 grants,
- (4) Nursing - 3 grants,
- (5) Fares - 11 grants.

Memo. 266/T.

This memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health in 1943 provided for the granting of allowances to patients and their dependants. Suitable cases are recommended by the Tuberculosis Officers and the patients must agree to carry out the treatment recommended. The scheme came into operation in this County in September 1943. During the six months ending 31st March 1944 the sum of £4,117.12.6 was paid in grants. From the 1st January, 1944, to 31st December, 1944, 186 new applications were received. During this same period the total number of patients who received grants was 249. Allowances made under this scheme are subject 100% Government Grant.

During the year the following patients from the Administrative County, excluding North Devon, were examined by the County Radiographer - 10,131.

Table 1 shows the number of Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis patients and Table 2 classifies these patients according to sex and age:-

TABLE 1

	MID-DEVON AND IVYBANK	SOUTH DEVON	HAWKMOOR	ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL & OTHER CLINICS	TOTAL
PULMONARY	2763	3496	3713	-	9972
NON-PULMONARY	33	27	32	67	159
TOTAL	2796	3523	3745	67	10131

TABLE 2

	MID-DEVON AND IVYBANK	SOUTH DEVON	HAWKMOOR	ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL & OTHER CLINICS	TOTAL
MALES	1530	1701	1933	21	5185
FEMALES	923	1224	1789	10	3946
CHILDREN	543	598	23	36	1000
TOTAL	2796	3523	3745	67	10131

TABLE 3

	MID-DEVON AND IVYBANK	SOUTH DEVON	HAWKMOOR	ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL & OTHER CLINICS	TOTAL
SCREENINGS	1184	1357	2383	-	4918
FILMS	1612	2172	1362	67	5213
TOTAL	2796	3523	3745	67	10131

HAWKMOOR SANATORIUM

Work has continued uninterrupted throughout the year. The E.M.S. beds mentioned in previous reports remain unoccupied. The main difference from previous years has been the exceptional call on the sanatorium beds owing to the needs of the times. This has been met in part by continuing to use the Recreation Halls on the New Blocks as temporary Wards. Work has commenced on the New Buildings which will provide an extra 70 beds.

The subjoined tables present in concise form the number of patients and types of case, together with the treatment given. It will be noted that the proportion of T.B.+ patients is higher this year. This is because it was decided in consultation with the Tuberculosis Officers that preference should be given to positive cases, other circumstances being equal.

Total number of beds available	156
Total number of patients admitted	261
" " " " discharged or who died	262
Number of patient days	56,653
Average number of beds occupied	155

Age Classification on Admission

	Males	Females	Total
Under 5 years	-	2	2
" 15 "	11	9	20
" 25 "	43	55	98
" 35 "	34	41	75
" 45 "	25	14	39
" 55 "	13	4	17
" 65 "	7	1	8
Over 65 "	2	-	2
	<u>135</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>261</u>

Disease Classification on Admission

<u>Pulmonary only</u>	Males	Females	Children	Total
Observation	5	6	2	13
Class T.B. Minus	18	32	8	58
Class T.B. Plus				
Group 1	14	15	1	30
" 2	23	23	-	46
" 3	61	35	4	100
<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>				
Bones & Joints	-	-	-	-
Abdominal	-	1	-	1
Other Organs	2	2	-	4
Glands	1	1	7	9

YEAR OF DISCHARGE	UNTRACED	1	2	3	DIED	TOTAL	GRAND TOTALS
1929. T.B. -	7	45	15	2	12	81	
T.B. + 1	4	6	10	-	10	30	
T.B. + 2	2	-	3	1	26	32	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	5	5	148
1930. T.B. -	10	31	15	6	13	75	
T.B. + 1	5	5	7	1	9	27	
T.B. + 2	4	-	1	-	32	37	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	4	4	143
1931. T.B. -	10	45	20	5	10	90	
T.B. + 1	-	3	5	1	5	14	
T.B. + 2	3	-	4	1	24	32	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	1	10	11	147
1932. T.B. -	8	42	25	4	13	92	
T.B. + 1	1	-	4	-	3	8	
T.B. + 2	3	-	4	5	21	33	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	10	10	143
1933. T.B. -	6	18	29	5	9	67	
T.B. + 1	1	3	4	1	3	12	
T.B. + 2	7	3	7	-	27	44	
T.B. + 3	-	-	2	1	4	7	130
1934. T.B. -	6	30	34	4	6	80	
T.B. + 1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
T.B. + 2	1	2	10	5	21	39	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	2	2	122
1935. T.B. -	12	42	31	4	5	94	
T.B. + 1	-	-	2	-	-	2	
T.B. + 2	3	1	14	1	13	32	
T.B. + 3	-	-	3	2	5	10	138

1936.	T.B. -	1	20	33	1	9	64	
	T.B. + 1	1	-	1	-	-	2	
	T.B. + 2	2	1	16	5	9	33	
	T.B. + 3	-	-	8	9	13	30	129
1937.	T.B. -	8	18	31	3	4	64	
	T.B. + 1	-	-	2	-	1	3	
	T.B. + 2	3	-	7	7	3	20	
	T.B. + 3	1	-	4	11	18	34	121
1938.	T.B. -	5	24	44	1	5	79	
	T.B. + 1	1	1	4	-	-	6	
	T.B. + 2	3	1	10	8	2	24	
	T.B. + 3	1	1	2	12	16	32	141
1939.	T.B. -	4	7	67	5	4	87	
	T.B. + 1	-	1	7	1	1	10	
	T.B. + 2	3	1	7	10	7	28	
	T.B. + 3	3	1	6	20	25	55	180
1940.	T.B. -	5	18	51	2	3	79	
	T.B. + 1	1	1	3	5	-	10	
	T.B. + 2	-	-	11	30	3	44	
	T.B. + 3	2	-	1	13	9	25	158
1941.	T.B. -	10	7	52	6	9	84	
	T.B. + 1	-	-	9	-	-	9	
	T.B. + 2	3	-	29	7	3	42	
	T.B. + 3	3	-	3	11	10	27	162
1942.	T.B. -	3	1	55	7	3	69	
	T.B. + 1	-	-	10	2	-	12	
	T.B. + 2	2	-	29	7	2	40	
	T.B. + 3	4	-	3	21	9	37	158
1943.	T.B. -	-	-	64	3	2	69	
	T.B. + 1	-	-	14	2	-	16	
	T.B. + 2	-	-	20	11	2	33	
	T.B. + 3	-	-	-	34	5	39	157
TOTALS		162	379	852	304	480	2177	2177

RETURN SHOWING THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

CLASSIFICATION ON ADMISSION	CONDITION AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE	DURATION OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT IN THE INSTITUTION																
		UNDER 28 DAYS			UNDER 3 MONTHS			3 TO 6 MONTHS			6 TO 12 MONTHS			OVER 12 MONTHS			TOTALS	
		M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C		
CLASS T.B. MINUS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		-	1	-	2	1	3	6	17	3	19	19	3	2	6	1		
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
CLASS T.B. + GROUP 1	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		-	-	-	1	1	-	3	5	1	7	5	-	2	-	-		
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
CLASS T.B. + GROUP 2	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		1	2	-	1	1	-	7	2	-	13	10	-	5	2	-		
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
CLASS T.B. + GROUP 3	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		2	-	-	3	2	-	16	2	-	7	10	1	5	5	-		
		3	3	-	6	3	-	3	3	-	-	2	-	3	3	-		
	TOTALS	6	6	-	13	8	3	35	29	4	46	46	4	18	16	1	235	

BONES AND JOINTS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	
ABDOMINAL	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	
OTHER ORGANS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - 1 - - - 1 -	- - - 1 - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	
PERIPHERAL GLANDS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - 1 1 - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - 1 5 - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	
	TOTALS	1 1 -	1 1 -	- 2 5	- - -	- - -		11

Although trace has been lost of more patients, it is still only about 7% of the total follow-up, and this is spite of the fact that many of our evacuee patients have left the county.

Artificial pneumothorax was attempted in 96 cases, of which 80 cases were successful and 16 unsuccessful. In addition to this 26 patients were admitted whose pneumothorax had been induced elsewhere. Artificial pneumoperitoneum has continued to find a limited place in the general therapeutic scheme, and 8 cases were induced during the year. The total refills given during the year amounted to 2,547.

The out-patient clinic continues to do useful work, with consultations and refills for patients who live in the neighbourhood.

3 patients had ultra violet ray, and 12 infra red ray therapy.

The following is a summary of the surgical work performed.

Phrenic nerve operations	60
Thoracoscopy and cauterization of adhesions	54
Minor operations	1
Thoracoscopy	9
Removal of T.B. glands	7
Rib resection and drainage of empyema	4
Thoracotomy and cauterization of adhesions	3
Thoracoplasty	3
T.B. rib resection	3
Fistula in ano	2
Extra pleural pneumothorax	1
Cystoscopy	1
Peritoneoscopy	1
Pre-sacral neurectomy	1
Nephrectomy	1

X-RAYS

There were 2,668 screenings made, and 848 films taken, of which 788 were plain chest, 8 bronchograms and pleurograms, 12 orthopaedic, and 40 miscellaneous.

DENTAL TREATMENT

As in former years dental treatment has continued to play an important part in the general therapeutic scheme. 427 attendances were made by patients, and analysis of the treatment given is as follows:- 105 fillings, 167 extractions, 84 scaldings etc., 4 dentures supplied and 2 dentures repaired.

The County Council oculist and psychologist have visited when requested.

COUNTY LABORATORY

During the year 24,319 specimen were examined.

ROUTINE EXAMINATIONS

	Positive	Negative	Total	TOTALS
Diphtheria swabs	336	4298	4634	
Sputum (T.B.)	477	1645	2122	
Ringworm	45	59	104	
Enteric fever (Widal)	131	sera were examined		6991

MILK - CLEANLINESS

	Passed	Failed	Total	
Ordinary	282	201	483	
Accredited	538	311	849	
T.T.	509	142	651	
Pasteurised	42	18	60	
School Milk	146	57	203	
P.A. Institutions	59	50	109	
P.H. "	6	7	13	2368

MILK - TUBERCULOSIS

	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive	Total	
Bulk Samples	6	171	4	181	
Min. of Agric.	4	54	3	61	
	10	225	7	242	242

MILK - MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year 39 samples were submitted.

By veterinary surgeons	32	
By sanitary inspectors	4	
By agricultural advisers ...	3	39

WATER

During the year 1063 samples from public supplies were examined.

Satisfactory	487
Doubtful	57
Unsatisfactory	305
E.P.H.L.S.	185
D.W.A.E.C.	14
Metals only	10
Others	5

VENEREAL DISEASES

1063

Wassermann tests	3208	
Gonococci (micro)	1197	
G.C.F.T.	1101	
Spirochaetes	11	5517

GENERAL BACTERIOLOGY

General Bacteriology (including for Tubercle Bacilli)

Faeces	5	
Urine	112	
Pleural fluid	15	
Pus	40	
C.S.F.	18	
Gastric fluid	3	
Sputum	1	194
<u>Enteric Fevers</u>		
Faeces	1157	
Urine	386	
Water	11	
Milk	15	
Blood cult	7	
Seawater	2	1578

Various Specimens

Biological tests	35	
Virulence tests	25	
Urine-superannuation ..	29	
Blood films	42	
Glandular fever	12	
G.C. cultures	196	
Foodstuffs	166	
Churn washings	64	
Section	1	
Water	2	
Various swabs	29	601
Total all specimens examined during 1944		<u>24,319</u>

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Notification of Births. The following births were notified during 1944 as compared with 1943. (These do not correspond with the number of births supplied by the Registrar-General).

	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>
Notified by Medical Practitioners	1189	953
Notified by Midwives	5151	4765
Reported by Registrars as non-notified	<u>201</u>	<u>240</u>
	<u>6541</u>	<u>5958</u>

Infant Mortality Rate - 38.8.

Stillbirths. There were 118 notified during the year compared with 175 cases in 1943.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. During the year 7 cases were notified compared with 12 cases in 1943.

The Non-medical Supervisor of Midwives investigated 6 cases and reported as follows:-

Treated at home	3	Treated in hospital ..	3
Vision unimpaired ...	6	Vision impaired	0

Total Blindness - 0.

Maternal Mortality - Rate for the year - 2.4.

Puerperal & Post. Abort. Sepsis - 0.49.

Other causes - 1.9.

During the year 15 cases were investigated where the certificate indicated that the fatalities were associated with pregnancy & parturition.

ANALYSIS OF MATERNAL DEATHS NOTIFIED TO MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

<u>Principal Causes of Death</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Toxaemia	4	-	4
2. Haemorrhage	3	-	3
2a. Toxaemia combined with haemorrhage	-	-	-
3. Shock or exhaustion due to prolonged labour	-	-	-
4. Sepsis	2	-	2
5. Other causes	6	-	6
6. All causes	15	-	15

Analysis of Age of Mother

25 - 30	4
30 - 35	5
35 - 40	6
40 - 45	-
45 - 50	-

Analysis of Preventability

Death might have been prevented by:-

Better antenatal supervision	2
Better obstetric facilities at delivery ..	-
Specialist facilities in hospital	-
Intelligent co-operation of patient	1

Puerperal Pyrexia. During the year 52 cases were notified including the Borough of Torquay. The Inspector of Midwives investigated 24 cases (excluding Torquay).

Ante and Post-natal Clinics:

Paignton. During the year there were 44 sessions at which 288 attendances were made.

Barnstaple. During the year there were 39 sessions at which 629 attendances were made.

Ilfracombe. During the year there were 46 sessions at which 646 attendances were made.

Newton Abbot. During the year there were 57 sessions at which 820 attendances were made.

Antenatal and Postnatal Examinations (General Practitioner Scheme). 1958 applications for payment of fees were received (as compared with 1773 in 1943). Of this number 1131 were for both ante and post natal examinations.

Consultants Scheme. There were 237 applications as compared with 215 in 1943. Of this number 62 received X-ray examinations.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Care. 1198 applications were approved as compared with 974 in 1943.

Home Helps. 121 applications were approved as compared with 212 in 1943.

Maternity Outfits. 410 outfits were supplied during the year as compared with 403 in 1943. Of this number 38 were supplied free of charge.

Supervision of Midwives. 547 visits (520 in 1943) were paid to 328 midwives who notified their intention to practise during 1944.

Notifications under Rules of Central Midwives Board

Requisitions for medical aid	1478
Stillbirths	24
Laying out a dead body	24
Contact with infection	22
Death of mother or child	17
Artificial feeding	125

Fees to Medical Practitioners called in by Midwives. 1110 claims were passed for payment.

Health Visiting. During the year Health Visitors paid the following visits:-

To expectant mothers	3912
Children under 1 year (first visits)	7606
do. (re-visits)	24525
Children 1 to 5 years	30573
Boarded-out children	1365
Tuberculosis cases	984

County Maternity Home, Riversdale, Ilfracombe. This Home was taken over by the County Council from the Ministry of Health in December 1943. In September 1944 the number of lying-in beds was increased from 11 to 16. During the year 176 live births took place in the Home. There were no still-births.

Long Orchard Emergency Maternity Home and The Grove Antenatal Hostel Sidmouth. This Emergency maternity unit was established in September 1944 on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, for the reception of evacuated women.

Care of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children. Arrangements have been made for unmarried mothers and illegitimate children to be dealt with on the lines suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 2866. The four County Welfare Officers combine this work with their other duties, and the Diocesan and Moral Welfare Workers in the County also co-operate.

Care of Premature Infants. The "notification of birth" card now in use in the County indicates the birth weight of a child if this is less than 5½ lbs. Two sets of premature baby equipment have been obtained for issue on loan when required. All notifications of premature births are specially followed up by Health Visitors.

Promotion of cleanliness and good habits and the elimination of verminous conditions. Special attention is given by Health Visitors to these matters both at welfare centres and domiciliary visits.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. At 61 Welfare Centres in the County 2097 sessions were held and the following attendances were made:-

Mothers present	66241
Infants present	46064
Children 1 - 5	24514

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Arrangements were made to admit 357 expectant mothers to hospitals and nursing homes in the County.

Consultants. 2 applications were approved.

Home Helps. No applications were received.

52 claims were received from Medical Practitioners in respect of fees under the Midwives Acts (Emergency Midwifery Services).

Welfare Centres. The following attendances were made:-

Mothers present	3096	} Official Evacuees
Infants present	2088	
Children 1 - 5	1475	

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

Public Health Act, 1936
(Part 7, Sections 206-220)

In the administrative County at the beginning of the year there were 157 children boarded out in accordance with the above Act, and 121 registered foster parents. At the end of the year there were 252 children and 154 foster parents on the list.

The following notifications were received from foster mothers during the year:-

- 4 children were legally adopted
- 64 children were removed to their parents
- 7 children were removed to other foster mothers
- 2 children attained the age of nine years
- 3 children were removed to hospital.

During the year it was not necessary to compulsorily remove any children from their foster mothers.

The Health Visitors who are Inspectors under the Act paid 1365 visits of inspection.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (Regulation) ACT, 1939

Four notifications were received under Section 7(3) during the year. Children under supervision at the end of the year - 3.

MENTAL HEALTH (MENTAL DEFICIENCY)

During 1944, 54 new cases were notified to the Mental Deficiency Committee as requiring action to be taken under the Acts such as Instit-

utional care or Statutory Supervision and orders for Institutions or Guardianship were made in 36 of these cases.

The number of new cases examined is very much larger than this, but in the present state of shortage of Institutional beds cases are notified for admission only when very urgent and for many of the others home visiting, home teaching, Occupation Centres (at Torquay and Barnstaple) and other alternative methods of supervision and treatment are adopted.

The attitude towards the care of the mentally defective is changing and the aim is coming to be regarded less as a sharp segregation from the community and more and more in all but the lowest grades as a graduated scheme of training progressing in stages from the Institution to the outside world.

In the County this aim is being achieved in various ways - In the Institutions increased privileges and freedom are allowed, for example, payment of wages and pocket money up to 5/- a week, walks on parole, visits to cinemas and friends, shopping in the town.

In addition, the scheme of daily licence to outside work has been adopted in the adult Institutions, so that a number of the best patients are placed in selected local situations, domestic, shops, British restaurants, farming etc. according to their aptitude. This provides a useful stepping stone to the ultimate aim of the full licence and is also a great incentive to the other patients under training.

At the end of the year there were 18 cases in the County under Guardianship and 184 cases in the County on resident licence from Institutions, many of these in paid employment.

The Devon Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare carries out the necessary supervision of these cases in an admirable manner, including as it does frequent visits to homes and places of employment all over the County and the supervision of all the activities of these patients, including the way in which their leisure time is spent, the buying of clothes and their Savings accounts in which they receive excellent supervision and training. All this is directed at the aim of ultimate discharge from the Acts, which is achieved in a number of cases who succeed in becoming entirely stable and self supporting.

The number of Devon cases in various Institutions was as follows, in December 1944:-

Institution	Males	Females	Total
R.W.C.I, Starcross	187	156	343
Box House	134	-	134
Western Lodge	-	101	101
Stoke Lyne	25	3	28
Franklyn	9	28	37
D. & E. Home	-	46	46
Rampton State Institution	7	11	18
Moss Side State Institution	2	1	3
Princess C. F. Colony	-	1	1
Mount Tabor, B'stoke	-	1	1
Stapleton	-	1	1
Stoke Park Colony	-	4	4
St. Mary's Home, Alton	-	3	3
Guardianship (D.V.A.)	7	11	18
Licence from Institutions and Guardianship	86	98	184
	457	465	922
Permissive "Raleigh House"	-	3	3
" " "Elizabeth Barclay"	-	3	3
" " Leave of Absence	-	1	1
	457	472	929

Box House, Axminster, (training institution for males over 16. As a wartime measure, the increased number of 141 has been maintained. 13 patients are out on resident licence, 12 patients are out on daily licence. Over three-quarters of the patients in the Institution are employed in the various departments, tailoring, carpentry, boot-repairing, gardening. All these departments show an excellent turnover. Football and scouting are popular pastimes and a number of matches have been played with outside teams. Enquiries towards obtaining more land for extension of the garden and to accommodate livestock and the provision of an assembly hall, are being pursued. The staff position has been well maintained - no doubt the fact that most of the staff live in houses erected by the County Council has a stabilising effect.

Western Lodge, Crediton, (training institution for adult women). There have during the year been some difficulties re staffing, but the Institution has kept its numbers up steadily. The facilities for training of medium and high grade patients are excellent and varied, so that an effort is being made to maintain this Institution for this type of trainable patient, and so far as possible, low grade, helpless and senile patients are being admitted elsewhere. The laundry and handicrafts departments are very active (the laundry dealing with the laundry of five County Institutions). Here again daily licence is being increased. 15 to 20 are now out daily and the services of the women are much in demand locally. Excellent reports are consistently received from the Board of Control Inspectors with regard to the general conduct of the Institution. It is hoped that both a Hostel in Crediton for patients out on daily licence and a seaside holiday home will be established when wartime difficulties allow.

Stoke Lyne, Exmouth, (boys up to 16 who are ineducable in ordinary or Special Schools). The work has been hampered to some extent by staffing shortage including the absence of the school teacher at the end of the year, but it is hoped to make a new appointment early in 1945. Nevertheless, the boys have been well occupied and a sale of their handwork realised the sum of £107, which is remarkably high considering the grade of boy here. Some urgently needed renovations have been carried out and there is further work which needs to be done.

Negotiations are now completed for the transfer to the administration of the County Council of FRANKLYN HOME, EXETER, in January 1945. This home, which is unique of its kind, caters only for helpless defective children (50 in number) and 17 high grade female patients are trained there in addition. It has been presented as a gift to the County Council by the Exeter Diocesan Committee, who are the Trustees of the Home, and has excellent premises and grounds. In the past cases have been drawn from all over the Country and it is anticipated that, while some out-county patients can continue to be admitted, most of the beds will in future be used for Devon cases.

Court and Prison Cases. The County Psychiatrist sees all cases in Exeter Prison in whom mental abnormality is suspected. These are drawn from five counties and the numbers involved are becoming considerable and as attendance at the Court to give evidence is frequently required in addition, this work is making heavy demands on the psychiatrist's time. However, it is gratifying to note the increasing tendency to remand doubtful cases for mental examination and the Courts frequently express satisfaction at the assistance given in the appropriate disposal and treatment of cases. Where prisoners are found to be mentally defective or insane, the necessary action is taken, but in the cases who do not fall into the above categories but who require psychological guidance and treatment, facilities are often difficult to find.

Consultations with General Practitioners in regard to psychiatric cases, often apart from Mental Deficiency, is another side of the work which continues to expand.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Arrangements were continued for the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from venereal diseases at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Torbay Hospital, North Devon Infirmary (Annexe), Barnstaple, and the City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter, for observation and treatment. In October arrangements were made for an additional session at Torbay, and consideration is being given to arranging sessions at other Centres.

The total number of new County cases attending for out-patient treatment at the Centres during 1944 was 652 compared with 519 in 1943. 39 new in-patients received treatment compared with 36 for 1943.

Up to the end of 1944 the names of 44 medical practitioners had been placed on the list of those qualified to administer salvarsan substitutes, and 149 supplies were sent out during the year compared with 234 in the previous year.

The total number of specimens examined during the year at the County Laboratory was 5517 compared with 4,181 in 1943.

It was found necessary to repay the sum of £94. 9. 11d to patients for expenses incurred in travelling to the nearest clinics, compared with £114. 1. 2½ in 1943 and £34. 2. 0 in 1942.

The following table shows the number of persons who attended for the first time, and the total number of attendances of all persons at the clinics during the years 1942 to 1944:-

1. Number dealt with at or in connection with the out-patient clinics for the first time ...	1942 346	1943 518	1944 652
2. Total attendances of all persons residing in the administrative County ...	... 10,631	12,168	10,810

General Practitioner V.D. Scheme

Under this scheme general practitioners who have been approved by the Ministry of Health are provided by the County Council with certain equipment and are paid for the treatment of patients in accordance with the scale laid down. This scheme is intended chiefly to provide treatment facilities for persons living in areas not easily accessible to one of the County Treatment Centres. Twenty-one doctors have so far been approved to work under this scheme.

Regulation 33(b)

The above Regulation provides for the compulsory treatment of venereal diseases in certain circumstances. The Regulation imposes duties upon Medical Officers of Health and Special Practitioners. Special Practitioners are defined in the Regulation as follows:-

- (a) a registered medical practitioner who is qualified under the Local Government (Qualification of Medical Officers and Health Visitors) Regulation 1930, to be a venereal diseases officer, or who is or has been a venereal diseases officer by virtue of a dispensation given by the Minister;
- (b) a Medical Officer of the Royal Navy, the Army or the Royal Air Force or of the Dominions or of the Women's Forces employed for the time being as a specialist in venereal diseases;
- (c) any other registered medical practitioner designated by the Minister of Health for the purposes of the Regulation.

A practitioner wishing to be approved under (c) has to apply to the County or County Borough Medical Officer of Health who will forward the application with his recommendation to the Minister of Health.

During the year 81 contacts were notified on Form 1, but only in 5 instances was a second notification received in respect of the same contact. These 5 contacts were instructed to attend for examination and all complied. Where only one notification is received it is not possible to

take legal action to force a contact to attend for examination, but every effort is made to get the contact to attend voluntarily.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION

Inspection of Rivers in connection with Pollution were greatly curtailed during the year, partly due to travel restrictions and partly to the increase in other work. Observations, when possible, were made of the Rivers Culm, Erme, Dart and Torridge, and samples taken as indicated. Pollution of the River Culm in its lower reaches continues to be marked and the River Erme has also shown some evidence of pollution on occasions.

Difficulties have been encountered in obtaining curtailment of pollution of streams, used as water courses for cattle, from certain military establishments. In all cases fullest representation has been made to the Authorities concerned to abate the pollution.

COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTORS

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year:-

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS

Inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	13
Number of water samples submitted	...	...	...	9

RIVERS POLLUTION AND WATER SUPPLIES

Visits of inspection	...	...	...	93
Visits to investigate complaints	...	...	...	8
Samples of river water	...	...	...	20
Water samples (Bacteriological and Chemical)	...	...	...	34
Surveys of water supplies and sewage disposal schemes				114

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Accredited Herds - Inspection of premises of new applicants	150
Re-inspections of approved producers	281
Inspections for bottling licences	-
Tuberculin Tested Herds - Inspection of premises of new applicants	162
Re-inspection of approved producers	122
Inspections for bottling licences	2
Milk in Schools Scheme - Inspection of premises	41
Milk supplies to Council's Institutions - Inspection of premises	11
Visits to 'Ordinary' herds for Mastitis & Undulant Fever	-
Samples of Milk	22

MILK DEPOTS & FACTORIES

Visits and inspections	3
No. of churns submitted for bacteriological examination	15
No. of bottles submitted for bacteriological examination	4
No. of Pasteurised milk samples	3

GENERAL

Visits to Schools	4
Consultations with District Sanitary Inspectors etc.	175
Investigation of other complaints	-

MILK

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926,
MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938

The following is a summary of the work in connection with the supervision of milk supplies:-

During the year ended 31st December 1944, 11,084 Veterinary Inspections were carried out and the following table shows the number of animals examined and the number found to have indurated udders or to be giving milk unfit for human consumption for reasons other than tuberculosis:-

	NUMBER	DESIGNATION		
		T.T.	ACCRD.	ORDINARY
EXAMINED	137,823	10,979	37,279	89,565
WITH INDURATED UDDERS	211	8	114	89
MILK UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION	579	35	225	319

Examination of the milk from abnormal udders has shown that 20 out of the total number of animals examined were giving tuberculous milk. The cows giving tuberculous milk have been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Orders, while steps have been taken to prevent the milk from other cows, returned as unfit, from reaching the public.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936 & 1938	NEW APPLICA- TIONS APPROVED	NUMBER IN FORCE AT END OF YEAR	NO. OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED	NO. OF SAMPLES FAILED	PERCENT- AGE
ACCREDITED LICENCES	51	795	901	313 *	34.76
TUBERCULIN TESTED	44	174	730	156 *	21.37

* INCLUDES REPEAT SAMPLES

The majority of milk samples are submitted by the Local Sanitary Inspector in the County, the remainder being taken by the County Sanitary Inspectors and Dairy Instructresses.

SUMMARY OF CANCELLED, SUSPENDED OR TRANSFERRED LICENCES

	Accrtd.	T.T.
Cancelled by Committee	-	-
Suspended	-	-
Withdrawn (Producer deceased)	1	-
" (" left farm)	22	1
Transferred from Accredited to T.T.	-	33
" " T.T. to Accredited	2	-
Licences transferred to other members of family etc.	8	2

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

During the year the herds of producers supplying milk under this scheme have been examined quarterly, and samples of milk submitted from any suspicious cows.

145 bulk samples of milk from these producers have been taken by the Local Sanitary Inspectors for cleanliness, and of these 42 (28.96%) have failed to reach the required standard - this number includes repeat samples.

Report by County Veterinary Officer on:-

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME FOR THE CONTROL OF MASTITIS AND OTHER DISEASES IN DAIRY HERDS

I submit herewith my report on the working of the above Scheme for the year 1st August, 1944, to 31st July, 1945.

As in the previous year the work was concerned principally with the control of mastitis. The incidence of this disease remains high in the dairy herds in this county, and there is as a consequence considerable depreciation of stock, reduced productivity and wastage of the fluid milk

supply. To what extent rejection of milk under the National Milk Testing Scheme is attributable to this disease is difficult to say but there is some evidence to show that where cows are affected with mastitis the keeping quality of the milk is adversely affected. The organisms responsible for mastitis can, moreover, give rise to infection in human beings consuming such infected milk. While one realises that the number of such cases may be few, the fact must always be borne in mind. From both Economic and Public Health points of view, therefore, the control of Mastitis must be regarded as one of the important problems to be dealt with. That much has been done to reduce the incidence of the disease in the county there is no doubt, and the results received to date on some farms participating in the Scheme since its inception are certainly encouraging. These results do show that mastitis can be eradicated from herds in which the incidence has been high and also that re-infection can be prevented.

Mastitis is undoubtedly the most serious infectious disease affecting dairy herds at the present time and is probably responsible for more loss than any other one condition. The control of this disease admittedly constitutes a difficult problem and demands the fullest co-operation of all those concerned with milk production. The efforts of the Veterinary Surgeons in diagnosis and treatment will not avail if the farmer himself is not conscious of the nature of this infection, of its mode of spread, and of the causes which predispose to such infection. The advice and instruction given by County Dairy Instructresses and others in the production of clean milk is invaluable in the above connection.

It should be emphasized here that the early diagnosis of mastitis infection and of the type of infection present is of the utmost importance if treatment is to be fully effective. Once the disease has become clinically manifest there is considerable damage done to the secretory tissues of the gland and even although treatment results in removal of the causal organisms, the productivity of the gland is irreparably impaired, induration of the udder frequently results and the animal concerned may depreciate considerably in value. By frequent clinical examinations of herds and by bacteriological examination of milk samples, early or latent infection can be diagnosed, the type of infection determined, and appropriate treatment carried out by the owner's Veterinary Surgeon. This is the main object of the above Scheme, and the information already received indicates that it has served a very useful purpose.

Animal management is of primary importance in the control of mastitis and this point cannot be too strongly emphasized. Bad milking methods, whether by hand or machine, can, and do often lead to cases of mastitis developing in dairy cows. Conversely, efficient milking can do much to prevent the onset of infection of the udder. In this latter connection it has recently been shown that quick milking is more effective in removing the milk than when the milking process is unnecessarily prolonged. Massaging the udder with a warm cloth immediately prior to milking has the effect of causing a substance known as "prolactin" to enter the blood stream from a gland in the body and this induces the cow to let down her milk.

Overstocking of cows is an important contributory cause of mastitis and one which unfortunately is still prevalent in the county. It is probably one of the chief predisposing causes. Milking three times per day is better than twice daily in high yielding cows at the peak of their lactation. The udder has a limited capacity, and in a high yielding cow the amount of milk secreted in a given time may be greater than the capacity of the gland. This results in pressure being set up in the ducts and in the region of the secretory cells. It retards or inhibits further secretion and may even cause direct injury. The complete emptying of the udder at milking and careful drying off of cows are other points requiring attention.

In addition to the duties concerned with the control of mastitis, advice and guidance was given on other matters such as improvement of livestock, herd management, attention to construction of farm buildings, animal nutrition and the control of certain other diseases. Such advice is greatly appreciated by farmers, as the numerous communications

received from them indicate. The great increase in enquiries for advice on all these problems is evidence that this Service is appreciated and is being fully utilised. Certainly the educational value alone of a service such as this is considerable and of the greatest importance.

Much attention has also been given to the establishment of Tuberculin Tested herds in the county. The increase in the number of such herds is very substantial and the interest shown by farmers is very encouraging. When one considers that the incidence of tuberculosis in the county of Devon is only about 20% as compared with over 40% in the country as a whole, the importance of stimulating greater interest in the eradication of tuberculosis in these herds is obvious.

Unsatisfactory farm buildings and faulty or inadequate water supplies are factors which are preventing many farmers from setting up Tuberculin Tested herds in certain parts of the county. Where buildings are unsuitable and where reconstruction or alteration is impracticable the introduction of milking parlours seems to be the only solution, and a number of farmers have adopted this method.

During the year visits were paid to 239 farms in order to give advice and to investigate problems affecting milk production. A total of 3,216 cows were clinically examined and milk samples were taken from 428 of these and submitted to bacteriological examinations. In addition to these milk samples, further samples amounting to 1,624 were submitted by County Dairy Instructresses, Veterinary Surgeons, Sanitary Inspectors, Milk Recording Officers, Farmers and others, for bacteriological examination. These examinations were made for the causal organisms of Mastitis, *Bacillus tuberculosis*, *Brucella abortus*, *Bacillus coli*, etc.

The clinical examinations revealed that 5.2% of all cows examined were affected with mastitis in an advanced degree, while another 6.8% showed definite evidence of induration of the udder probably associated with a previous infection. The bacteriological examination of milk samples showed that 12.8% were infected with the causal organisms of mastitis as follows:- 8.8% with streptococci, 2.6% with staphylococci, and the remainder coliform or diphtheroid organisms.

Where the results of treatment were followed up it appeared that in a fairly large number of cases treatment had not been fully effective. It would seem that in so far as streptococcal mastitis is concerned, resistant strains of organisms are becoming more prevalent and that these may yet constitute a difficult problem. That sulphanilamide treatment, if properly carried out, is effective in a very high proportion of cases of streptococcal mastitis there is no doubt, but it would seem that such treatment should be carried out as early as possible, and that the maximum safe doses be given during the course of treatment. This is a drug that must be used intelligently and with care, and it should be emphasized that the owner's Veterinary Surgeon is the only person competent to advise on and direct the use of the drug.

It would seem that certain proprietary preparations are now on the market which perhaps contain this drug and which may in certain cases be contra indicated. The indiscriminate use of such drugs is to be regarded very unfavourably. Education of farmers on these matters by means of talks, leaflets, etc. can only do good.

During the year the appointment of Captain N.M.Black, M.R.C.V.S. as Assistant Veterinary Officer was made and this has done much to simplify the work involved in the clinical examination of herds and in the bacteriological technique concerned.

The appointment of a shorthand typist technician has also been made. This is a very important part of the work and the appointment has greatly increased the efficiency of the laboratory side of the service.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the help and advice so freely given by those concerned with the different aspects of this work. The facilities provided by the Seale-Hayne Agricultural College are most satisfactory and every assistance has been given by the Governors and Principal of the College towards making the Scheme function efficiently.

The Staff of the County Medical Department have, as in previous years, been most helpful. I should like also to say how much I value the advice and guidance given at all times by the Superintending and Divisional Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and their staff. Their interest in this work and their helpful consideration has done much to simplify the working of the Scheme. Such co-operation is calculated to produce the best results in the interests of animal health and production.

Finally, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the great help given in every way by the Public Health Committee.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938: OTHER PROVISIONS

All functions relating to the sale of Food and Drugs are discharged by the Police. There are no special County Inspectors. Samples are taken regularly by the Police Officers and submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. T. Tickle, for analysis. The latter submits a report to the Public Health Committee at the end of each quarter.

The following gives details of the specimens submitted to the County Analyst during the year:-

ARTICLE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES		NUMBER OF ADULTERATIONS		NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS		AMOUNT OF FINES & COSTS
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1944
BAKING POWDER	14	12	-	-	-	-	-
ALE, WHISKY & BEER	38	49	2	-	2	-	-
BREAD	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
BUTTER	40	43	-	-	-	-	-
CHEESE	6	11	-	-	-	-	-
COCOA	17	13	-	-	-	-	-
COFFEE	12	39	-	-	-	-	-
FLOUR	32	31	-	-	-	-	-
GIN	-	24	-	1	-	1	£5 0 0
GROUND GINGER	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
LARD	22	32	-	-	-	-	-
MARGARINE	28	37	-	-	-	-	-
MILK, NEW	602	539	55	62	31	35	£209 11 10
MUSTARD CONDIMENT	11	4	-	-	-	-	-
OATMEAL	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
PEPPER	27	32	-	-	-	-	-
RICE	15	23	-	-	-	-	-
SWEETS	7	18	-	-	-	-	-
SUGAR	14	17	-	-	-	-	-
SEMOLINA	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
TEA	6	7	-	-	-	-	-
VINEGAR	26	39	-	6	-	3	18 6
MISCELLANEOUS	42	26	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	970	984	57	69	33	39	£215 10 4

